

PETER GAVE UP LOVE TO ASCEND THRONE

Blasted Romance of Prince Alexander Recalls Heart Sorrow of His Father, Now in Retirement.

GEORGE LOVED PEASANT

Although He Renounced Rights to Crown, Young Woman Died Before Day Set for Their Marriage.

By WILLIAM LE QUEUX.

PARIS, Nov. 22.—The romance of the Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, and the Grand Duchess Olga, daughter of the czar, which has now been published for the first time, has long been known in court circles.

But there are other romances connected with the house of Kara-Georgievitch which are equally interesting, though no word of them has ever been made public.

Having the good fortune to enjoy the personal friendship of King Peter and the members of his family for many years, and having often been a guest at the royal palace at Belgrade, I have learned many facts concerning the love romances of the house, some from hints which his majesty has given me from time to time about his children, and others from the lips of the grand old man of the Balkans, Nicholas Paschich, Serbia's president of the council.

In the first place, one of the most charming stories of love and self-sacrifice could be told of King Peter himself, the unhappy monarch who was, against his will, dragged to the throne after the extinction of the house of Obrenovitch, and was compelled to endure the opprobrium of all Europe.

Readers will recall how the British government broke off all diplomatic negotiations; how the papers declared Peter to have been in league with assassins, and the famous parrot cry, "To hell with him!"

At that time I was in close touch with his majesty, and he often made me his confidant, deploring that he should be so misjudged.

I pitied him, eager in those gilded anions and compelled to endure the hate of the world, for I happened to know that a romance of true and genuine affection which was about to culminate in marriage, had been suddenly put to an end by the fact that he had become reigning sovereign.

On that June day in Paris the lady whose name I must not divulge—but with whom I still retain friendship—parted from the handsome elderly soldier, who loved her so devotedly, and who for years had been the one bright spot in his life, for there were now inseparable friends in their marriage, and both decided to part for ever.

As far as I know that mention of her since brings a bitter recollection to his majesty, how he sacrificed his happiness in order to do his duty to his country, and become its ruler.

The Prince's Escapades.

His eldest son, Prince George, who renounced his right to the throne in 1909 had joined the Russian army, is a typical Slav prince, extravagant, careless and elegant. I was often with him in Belgrade when as crown prince he set the city agog with his amusing practical jokes and frequent escapades. It is not generally known that he was the original of "Prince Danilo" in "The Merry Widow."

A story of one of his escapades I heard from his own lips. One day I was lunching at the house of Monsieur Paschich, where among the guests, which included two other Serbian ministers was Prince George, who kept us all in fits of laughter by telling droll stories concerning a well known Serbian officer who was a little eccentric. When the ladies had gone, however, the gray-whiskered old prime minister in a deep and serious voice, asked:

"What is this story which is going around the city concerning your highness' doing last night?"

"My doings?" echoed the handsome prince. "I didn't do much," he declared. "It was only a bit of fun."

"Well, tell us what you did," urged the minister of finance.

"Oh! It was rather amusing, I suppose," replied Prince George. "There was a new ballet at the theater last night, so with some officers I had a box, and after the theater we invited 20 of the dancers to supper. Having done this we didn't know where to take them, for it was very late. Somebody suggested that we should go to the palace, which we did."

"I woke up the chief, and he gave us quite a decent spread. The king had retired long before, and didn't know of the gathering. But after supper things grew a bit dull, so I got the key to the safe where the regalia is kept, brought down the royal crown and crowned myself king of Serbia. The girls went into fits over it!"

Sedate old Monsieur Paschich expressed himself horrified at such hilarious conduct, but he couldn't help laughing.

SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD
BRIDE HELD AS BIGAMIST

DAYTON, Ohio, Nov. 22.—Whether or not Vera Davis Jones, pretty seventeen-year-old bride, is to be held back here for prosecution will be determined by the local authorities following the decision of the same against her by Judge Sullivan's court in Chicago where she is held as a bigamist.

Several months ago she was married to Ross L. Jones, a youth from her home village near here. She soon got into trouble with her husband's parents, who with two prominent business men while a ward of the court here, it is said, she went to Chicago and married Howard Melonick. They moved to Chicago, where she was apprehended. Jones was sent for divorce and says he will press the bigamy charge.

BISHOP WOULD BOX TO
AID SOLDIERS' FUND

LONDON, Nov. 22.—Bishop McLaughlin, of Clarendon, south Wales, has sent to the All Sports Weekly, an offer to box any bishop five rounds for a fund for disabled soldiers and adds that he is in making the match, he will extend the offer to any soldier of any paper of his own age. The bishop is 68 years old.

He is the father of Captain Victor McLaughlin, who is now training to box for Becton, for the Lonsdale heavyweight championship belt.

The bishop's offer was prompted apparently by his indignation at something the newspaper had printed concerning his son.

The British Women's Temperance association is making elaborate plans for the entertainment of the British World's W. C. T. U. convention, which is to be held in London next April.

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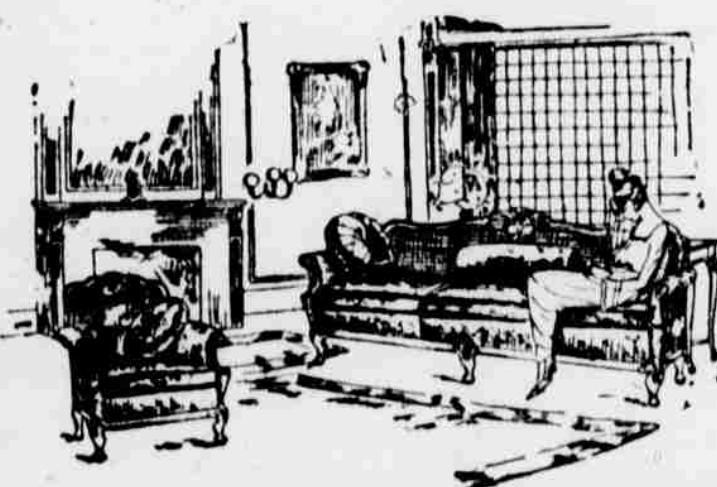
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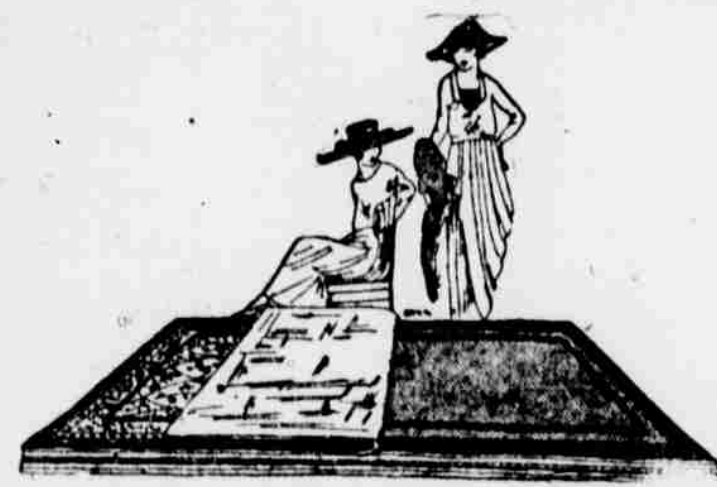
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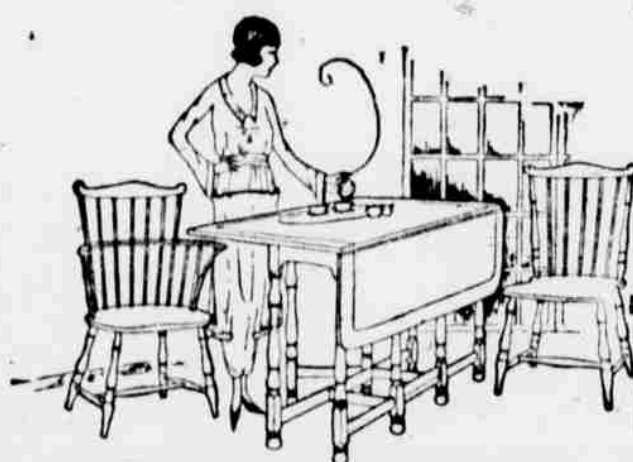


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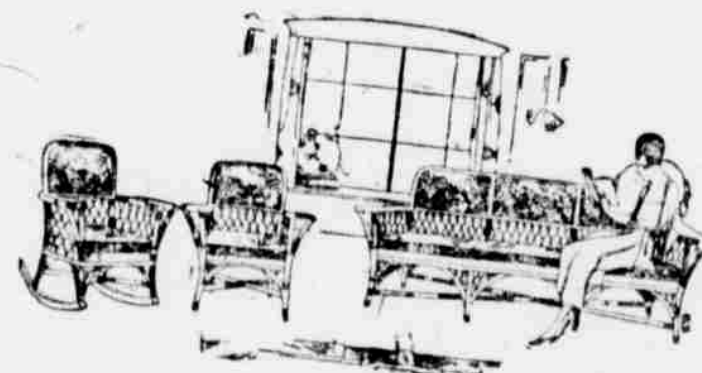
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